

attainment; those who demanded from the Chr! the most absolute spotlessness af life; those insisted most strenuously on the enormity of sin ^^ made fewest allowances for the weakness of human it — these were surest of being heard most gladly j northern Africa, During the persecution of **idj** cletian and Maximian many of the African Christian " ~ had ostentatiously courted martyrdom.

Accord in

to Catholic authors, such martyrdom had been sc not only by saints, but by men of immoral and solute life, who thought t<> purge the stains of a career by dying in the odour of sanctity, again, while not prepared to die for the faith, not unwilling to suffer imprisonment for it, inasi as their fellow-Christians looked well after creature comforts of those who languished in g-aol Mcnsunus, Bishop of Carthage and 1'rimate of Africa strongly disapproved of these proceedings. lie discountenanced the fanaticism, which he knew to b> the besetting weakness of his people; refused to recognise as martyrs those who had provoked deatli -and checked, as far as possible, the indiscriminate charity of his (lock. If his critics are to In: believed, Mcnsurius had resort to a trick in order to save Holy Books of his own cathetr.il and thus the choice of being a *1 radii or* or of suffering for conscience<sup>1</sup> sake. It was said that when the oftlers **of** the civil power demanded the Holy Hook\* in liis keeping, he handed over to them a number of heretical volumes, which were at once burnt, while the Sacred Scriptures were carefully concealed, It is not surprising, therefore, to find that Meiihurius wa» charged